

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed February 2, 2005. No fee is due for the addition of new claims.

I. Summary of Restriction Requirement

Prior to the Restriction Requirement mailed February 2, 2005, Claims 1-67 were pending in the Application. In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner restricted the claims to the following groups:

- Group I: Claims 1-13, 40-47 and 51-57
- Group II: Claims 24-39 and 63-67
- Group III: Claims 14-23 and 58-62
- Group IV: Claims 48-50

II. Summary of Applicant's Amendments

The present Response cancels without prejudice Claims 1-23 and 40-62, and adds new Claims 68-76, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 24-39 and 63-76. Reconsideration of the Application as amended is respectfully requested.

III. Election of Invention

Applicant hereby elects Group II, Claims 24-39 and 63-67 for present consideration. Claims 1-23 and 40-62 are withdrawn from present consideration at this time, and have been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to reinstate and/or to prosecute any withdrawn or canceled claims in a currently pending or future application.

IV. Additional Amendments

Claims 68-76 have been added. Applicant respectfully requests that new Claims 68-76 be included in the Application and considered therewith.


V. Conclusion

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and consideration thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned should he have any inquiries.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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